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ANNEX 14

#### **ANNEX**

to the

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

State of the Digital Decade 2025: Keep building the EU's sovereignty and digital future

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# SHORT COUNTRY REPORTS 2025

**Hungary** 

# **Executive summary**

Hungary boasts a very good digital infrastructure, but it still lags behind in the digitalisation of businesses despite recent progress, while access to e-Health records is above the EU average. Hungary shows a moderate level of ambition in its contribution to the Digital Decade having set 14 national targets, 43% of which are fully aligned with the EU 2030 targets. The country is following its trajectories well with 75% of them being on track (on the basis of the 2024 trajectories defined for all 8 KPIs analysed). Hungary addressed 13% of the 16 recommendations issued by the Commission in 2024 by making some changes through new measures.

In 2024, Hungary continued to make progress increasing broadband connectivity, expanding basic 5G coverage, and driving digitalisation in SMEs, in particular the adoption of cloud. However, significant challenges persist in the area of digital skills, especially in the adoption of advanced technologies such as AI by Hungarian enterprises. Hungary's digital policies are focused on improving digitalising key public services and boosting digital skills.

	Hungary				EU		Digital Decade target by 2030	
Digital Decade KPI <sup>(1)</sup>	DESI 2024 (year 2023)	DESI 2025 (year 2024)	Annual progress	National trajectory 2024 (3)	DESI 2025	Annual progress	HU	EU
Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	84.1%	86.0%	2.2%	86.0%	82.5%	4.9%	97.0%	100%
Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	76.2%	79.9%	4.9%	80.0%	69.2%	8.4%	95.0%	-
Overall 5G coverage	83.7%	85.6%	2.3%	70.0%	94.3%	5.9%	99.0%	100%
Edge Nodes (estimate)	8	16	100.0%	16	2257	90.5%	82	10000
SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity (2)	-	57.4%	5.4%	-	72.9%	2.8%	89.0%	90%
Cloud	37.1%	39.8%	7.2%	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
Artificial Intelligence	3.7%	7.4%	101.4%	7.5%	13.5%	67.2%	24.0%	75%
Data analytics	53.2%	-	-	-	-	-	75.0%	75%
Al or Cloud or Data analytics	65.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%
Unicorns	0	0		-	286	4.4%	2	500
At least basic digital skills	58.9%	-	-	-	-	-	70.0%	80%
ICT specialists	4.2%	4.5%	7.1%	4.9%	5.0%	4.2%	8.3%	~10%
eID scheme notification		No						
Digital public services for citizens	73.4	77.7	5.9%	76.8	82.3	3.6%	96.3	100
Digital public services for businesses	74.9	80.0	6.9%	80.6	86.2	0.9%	97.2	100
Access to e-Health records	86.0	86.0	0.0%	94.3	82.7	4.5%	100.0	100

<sup>(1)</sup> See the methodological note for the description of the indicators and other metrics  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ 

(3) National trajectory value if present in the national roadmap and if the indicator was measured in DESI2025 (year 2024)

According to the 2025 special Eurobarometer on the Digital Decade, 81% of Hungarians consider that the digitalisation of daily public and private services is making their lives easier. On the action of the public authorities, 91% consider it important to counter and mitigate the issue of fake news and disinformation online. And on competitiveness, 90% consider it important to ensure that European companies can grow and become 'European Champions' capable of competing globally.

<sup>(2)</sup> DESI 2025 reports the version 4 of the Digital Intensity Index, that is comparable with the DII value from DESI 2023 (referring to year 2022) for the calculation of the annual progress. It is not comparable to the national trajectory that is based on version 3 of the index.

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# A competitive, sovereign, and resilient EU based on technological leadership

Hungary is equipped with solid digital infrastructures and continued to progress on deployment. It should, however, focus more on the deployment of AI technologies. On infrastructures, Hungary is above the EU average for very high capacity networks (VHCN) and is also very close to the EU's average for 5G coverage. Despite the continued increase in the take-up of advanced technologies, most businesses, in particular SMEs, are not yet reaping all the benefits, due to a lack of digital skills. This in turn has a negative impact on the competitiveness of the economy. A new measure has been added to the updated national roadmap, focusing on the digitalisation of SMEs. Although Hungarian employees are less aware of their ICT security-related obligations compared to the EU average, enterprises in the country tend to experience less incidents related to cyberattacks. However, the recent hacking of Hungary's defence procurement agency (VBÜ) by foreign hackers, shows that Hungary could be victim to similar attacks in the future.

#### Protecting and empowering EU people and society

Hungary is focusing on further increasing at least basic digital skills among 16-74 year-olds, aiming to reach 70% by the end of the decade, driven by demographic impacts, public policy measures and projects. Although the new target is lower than the overall EU target, it is 10 percentage points higher than the commitment in the previous version of the Hungarian roadmap and is considered to be feasible within the scope of the existing measures. In terms of ICT specialists, Hungary is making progress, getting closer to the EU average. Hungary also plans to focus on improving gender convergence and the proportion of ICT graduates, in which Hungary is currently ahead of the EU average. Hungary has not yet notified an e-ID scheme to the Commission under the eIDAS regulation. The country plans to do so in the second half of 2025. This could also help to improve the currently stagnating indicator for eHealth and the slowly growing indicators for digital public services for citizens and for businesses.

### Leveraging digital transformation for a smart greening

Although, none of the measures planned in Hungary's national roadmap are specifically aimed at the green transition, they can contribute indirectly to the uptake of greener technologies due to the nature of digitalisation. Hungary also contributed with a best practice within the Green IT cluster of the Digital Decade's Best Practice Accelerator: all-year waste heat reuse solution of the country's Hungary's largest supercomputer, Komondor.

#### National digital decade strategic roadmap

Hungary submitted a fully revised national Digital Decade roadmap on 16 May 2025, containing two additional measures and revised trajectories. It includes reporting on the consultation of stakeholders. It addresses a substantial number of roadmap recommendations issued in 2024. The updated roadmap has raised the national targets for fixed VHCN and at least basic digital skills and has provided a target value for fibre-to-the-promises (FTTP) coverage; however, these national targets are still below the EU-level targets set for 2030. Additionally, Hungary has increased the 2030 targets for Cloud and Data analytics to align them with the EU goals for 2030. The target set for the adoption of AI technologies continues to be significantly below the EU level target (75%), as Hungary aims at a 24% adoption rate by 2030. The revised roadmap continues to prioritise digital skills and digital infrastructure. It contains

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of 44 measures with a budget of EUR 2.489 billion, comprising EUR 1.822 billion from public budgets (equivalent to 0.88% of GDP), with the EU being the major contributor towards the public budget. It still covers all objectives of the Digital Decade such as those relating to the competitiveness, sovereignty, leadership, and resilience, including cybersecurity.

#### Funding & projects for digital

Hungary allocates 29% of its total recovery and resilience plan to digital (EUR 1.7 billion)<sup>1</sup>. In addition, under cohesion policy, EUR 2.6 billion, representing 12% of the country's total cohesion policy funding, is dedicated to advancing Hungary's digital transformation<sup>2</sup>. Hungary is a member of the Alliance for Language Technologies European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC). Hungary is directly participating in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS). Hungarian bodies are indirect and associated partners in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies (IPCEI-ME/CT). Hungary is a participating state of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) and of the Chips JU.

Hungary has contributed to the Best Practice Accelerator<sup>3</sup>, submitting three best practices, one in each of the Digital Skills, the Business Uptake and the Green IT clusters.

#### **Digital Rights and Principles**

According to a support study, Hungary has been relatively active in implementing the <u>European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles</u>, with 71 initiatives overall and 2 new initiatives launched in 2024. Hungary is most active in the area of digital education, training and skills. Less activity has been identified with regards to interactions with algorithms and artificial intelligence systems. Measures in the area of putting people at the centre of the digital transformation appear to have most impact on the ground, in contrast to those addressing sustainability.

#### **Recommendations**

- Digitalisation of SMEs: Continue efforts through new support programmes and incentives to accelerate the digital transformation of SMEs, no matter what their size, and increase resources for existing schemes.
- **ICT specialists and advanced skills**: Closely monitor implementation of existing measures to boost the number of ICT specialists in the shorter term and continue measures to increase the percentage of women in ICT careers; increase efforts to reduce the cybersecurity skills gap.
- **e-ID:** Notify an e-ID scheme under the eIDAS Regulation to the Commission.
- Advanced technologies take-up: Support the adoption of advanced digital technologies (with a
  particular attention to AI and cloud) by enterprises via the creation of local ecosystems that
  enables technologies and best practices to be spread across the whole business sector.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The share of financial allocations that contribute to digital objectives has been calculated using Annex VII to the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. Last data update: 16 May 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This amount includes all investment specifically aimed at or substantially contributing to digital transformation in the 2021-2027 Cohesion policy programming period. The source funds are the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, and the Just Transition Fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Best Practice Accelerator (BPA) is a platform that enables Member States to share successful measures and challenges encountered in their efforts to meet their Digital Decade targets and objectives. Best practices are made available to Member States via the BPA Repository and showcased in regular workshops, currently focused on three thematic clusters: Digital Skills, Green IT, and the Uptake of Digital Technologies.

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- **Basic digital skills**: Accelerate the country's efforts to bridge the digital divide by developing and investing in inclusion policies that focus on vulnerable groups, such as those with lower levels of formal education and those living in rural areas.
- **Cybersecurity**: Continue efforts to address evolving threats, particularly for enterprises and administration.
- **Digital public services**: Speed up the digitalisation of public services for citizens and businesses.
- e-Health: Make the data type of medical images available to citizens through the country's online access service, expand the availability of health data by onboarding public and private geriatric nursing homes, strengthen the authentication method for logging in to the online access service by using a notified or pre-notified eID scheme and ensure that all access modes comply with web accessibility guidelines.
- **Smart greening:** Support digital players to accelerate the transition of their network infrastructure to greener, less energy intensive solutions.